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City of Salisbury Community Appearance Commission to Host BLOCKWORK Neighborhood Improvement Project

Salisbury_North Carolina_October 2 – The City of Salisbury’s Community Appearance Commission will host the BlockWork Neighborhood Improvement Project in the 1000 block of South Fulton Street from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m on Saturday, October 27.

BLOCKWORK is grass-roots program of the Community Appearance Commission's Neighborhood Leaders Alliance (NLA) designed to bring community supporters together to promote cleaner and safer neighborhoods - one block at a time. Neighborhood leaders submit applications for a block of their choice to compete for an intensive work day with volunteers, similar to the United Way's Day of Caring. After careful review of applications, a selection committee chooses a block based on potential impact to the community, feasibility of the project and neighborhood support. The 1000 block of South Fulton Street was chosen for this year's BlockWork project.

The Fulton Heights National Register District (established in 1999) begins in the 1000 block of South Fulton Street. Recent renovations on the mid-block commercial properties, including the former R.L Foil's Grocery building, have brought in two favorite local eateries - Mambo Grill and Ibiza's Deli, and a third business is currently in the planning phase. Local hair styling business Cut Up and Dye starts the block at Harrison Street. The remaining properties on the block are a mix of owner-occupied and rental residential.

Fulton Heights Neighborhood leaders, project site managers and city staff have met with property owners to evaluate needs and design work plans. Projects include exterior repairs like painting, porch repair, decorative fence installation, sidewalk and landscaping work, and a major student art project. Crew leaders have been recruited to direct the specific projects and help finalize the work plans.



Approximately 90 neighborhood and community volunteers will provide labor for the work teams during the event. Property owners and residents will participate on the teams and contribute to the purchase of materials if able.

BlockWork 2012 will be held on October 27, which is national Make a Difference Day. BlockWork 2011, which was held in the 200 and 300 blocks of South Shaver Street, was the recipient of the national Make a Difference Day Award. The \$10,000 award will be used to fund this year's event.

Make a Difference Day is a national day of helping others -- a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors. Created by USA WEEKEND Magazine, Make a Difference Day is an annual event that takes place on the fourth Saturday of every October. Millions have participated, accomplishing thousands of projects in hundreds of towns.

If you are 16 or older and interested in volunteering, contact Lynn Raker in the Community Planning Services Department by October 19 at (704) 638-5235 or lrake@salisburync.gov. No special work experience is required – just a willingness to make a difference in the community.

BLOCKWORK is funded by grants from the Margaret C. Woodson Foundation, the Blanche & Julian Robertson Family Foundation, a cash award from USA Weekend Magazine, Newman's Own, the Points of Light Foundation and contributions from individual property owners.

The City of Salisbury is an equal opportunity employer with over 180 different job classifications and more than 400 full time positions. For more information regarding the City of Salisbury and its services and departments, please visit us on the web at www.salisburync.gov. To receive updates regarding local initiatives, meetings, programs and events, please follow us on Twitter at www.salisburync.gov/twitter.

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